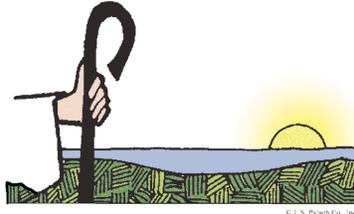




St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

A Message from the Pastor

March 29, 2020



Dear Parishioners,

I think it goes without saying that at some point in our lives we have all experienced nightmares. The vivid images of being chased, attacked, dying and the like. In the moment of “waking” the nightmare ceases and is replaced by relief. The nightmare is over!

I write this reflection after spending every waking moment last evening with Delilah, my Boxer. She was in distress and pain probably from her age, spinal arthritis and general deterioration (sounds like me, too!). I was contemplating losing her in these hours. But we contemplate deeper things these days, too. This time of confinement has become an imprisonment of sorts; and, for many a nightmare that is not ending any time soon. When will we arise from a night’s sleep to the dawning of a new day filled with hope and promise? I cannot answer that question.

Let’s look to the hope and promise of this Sunday’s Gospel: the death of Lazarus the friend of Jesus. For Martha and Mary, not to mention Lazarus, this was a nightmare, especially since Jesus did not seem to arrive on time to the bedside of His ill friend. But Jesus knows this story is not to end in death. In fact, the story of Jesus is not to end in death. The hope and promise of this Lenten Sunday are that the nightmare of sickness, suffering and death will be defeated by the resurrection and call to New Life.

In these days of our Lenten journey take to heart that we are called to recognize Jesus who is the Resurrection and the Life. He is the one who orders us to “unbind” ourselves and others from that which has become a nightmare. And, finally, we are told to “let go.” The Shepherd’s hand will lead us out of our nightmares into the wonderful light of an Easter morning and a new life won for us by His death on the Cross conquering that which has held us bound (sin, death, ignorance, selfishness...fill in the blank in your own life).

“Heavenly Father, Father of Life and Love: unseal our eyes and our hearts, that we may see, even in the shadows, the glory of the life to come for all...”

And, for the advertisement: In these most difficult times, including financially, for all of us I remind you to remember your contributions to keep St. Luke viable as a parish and school. Thank you for those who always remember their tithe. This past week was extremely lean. Please consider mailing your contributions into the Pastoral Office or leave in the office mailbox. You can also make your donation through our [parish online giving program](#) (Vanco). You can call Vanco at 1-800-675-7430 Monday-Friday between 6:00 am and 4:00 pm to make your contribution as well (Our parish client ID is ES11182). God bless you.

Folks, one last thing, during this time of pandemic I echo the words of law enforcement to be very careful of the many “scams” that are circulating out there. Do not give your personal information out over the phone. Do not believe that

the IRS, SCE, SoCal Gas or any other entity is out to shut you off or arrest you. If you get any such menacing calls please notify the proper authorities.

Know of your priests' daily prayers for you as we journey together, but apart.

Please visit our Parish Website for continued COVID-19 information related to parish activities and previous e-communications: <http://stluketemplecity.org/covid-19-notice>.

Blessings that your hearts and homes may feel His Love,

Fr. Mark